

UNCLASSIFIED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**TELEGRAM**

5/26/76  
Micheline  
55010  
INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO  
**DECONTROL**

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

FROM  
**Embassy BUENOS AIRES**

CLASSIFICATION

**N/A**  
**PINT, SHM, AR**  
**President Videla's Speech**

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)

Exemption(s):  
Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☒ In Full) *Decentral*  
(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade to)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

**Secstate WASHDC**

**BUENOS AIRES**

AMB  
POL-3  
ECON  
USIS  
UEDAO  
MILGA-2  
SCIAT  
LEGAT  
RF  
CHECK

1. President Videla's speech on May 24 was a disappointment to those who had hoped he would make strong statement condemning Triple A-type death squads as well as leftist terrorists and voicing government's respect for human rights. Instead, Videla indulged in lengthy description of abuses and ills of past government which had forced military to take power. He then in effect said government was trying to cure ills and get Argentina back on proper road. He made no mention of Michellini and Gutierrez Ruiz murders or any of the other extralegal activities commonly believed to have been perpetrated by elements connected with the government's own security forces.

2. COMMENT: It would have been perfect opportunity for Videla to give some reassurances concerning his commitment to the moderate line or even to have publicly expressed his

DRAFTED BY:

**POL:SES:th:cn**  
CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

**5/26/76**

TEL. EXT.

**128**

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

**AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL**

UNCLASSIFIED

DCN:McChaplin

repudiation of such acts as the Michelini and Gutierrez Ruiz murders. It is unfortunate that he did not take it.

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE

UNCLASSIFIED